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Agenda item 8
Adoption of the report and proposed dates for the organizational and substantive sessions in 2018

Draft report

Rapporteur: Rita **Le Diffard** (Hungary)

V. Facilities and accessibility

A. Use of United Nations premises

1. At its 549th meeting, on 5 September 2017, the Committee considered the section of the report of the Secretary-General on the pattern of conferences concerning the use of United Nations premises in New York (A/72/116, para. 51).

Discussion

2. A delegation suggested that, when events organized to discuss topics of a controversial nature regarding a particular Member State were to be held on United Nations premises, the Secretariat should notify the permanent mission of the Member State in question. Given that the United Nations was for the Member States and they paid for the Organization's conference facilities, the use made of those facilities should be acceptable to the Member States. A representative of the Secretariat explained that it had neither the tools nor the authority to police the content of the events held on United Nations premises. Its only mandate on the subject was to ensure that events did not violate the purposes and principles of the United Nations and were non-commercial in nature, in accordance with the administrative instruction on the use of United Nations premises for meetings, conferences, special events and exhibits (ST/AI/416).

B. Accessibility

3. At the same meeting, the Committee considered the section of the report concerning the accessibility of conference services (A/72/116, paras. 53-54).